

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting – October 23, 2001**

**Present:** Commissioners:  
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service  
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan

National Park Service:  
Steve DeLong, KEWE, Landscape Architect  
Frank Fiala, KEWE, Superintendent  
Abby Sue Fisher, KEWE, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services  
Brian Hoduski, KEWE, Curator  
Rodney Larsen, KEWE  
Martha Lyon, KEWE Management Assistant  
Leslie Newkirk, KEWE Intake Trainee

Congressional Representatives:  
Amy Wisti, Office of Congressman Bart Stupak

**Absent:** Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

**Recording Secretary:** Abby Sue Fisher

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, October 23 in Calumet, Michigan at the Park headquarters.

**Introductions**

Frank Fiala introduced Amy Wisti from Bart Stupak's office, and the following people introduced themselves: Dave Bishop and Dean Juntunen from the Ontonagon County Historical Society, Tony Landini, Kimberly Fergan from the Village of Calumet, Bill Gale, geography PhD student at Queens University of Kingston, Ontario writing a dissertation on cultural landscape and heritage sites, and Ed Yarbrough of the Quincy Mine Hoist.

**Kudos**

Bob Langseth congratulated Paul Lehto on receiving the President's Award for distinguished citizenship by NMU President Judy Bailey, which cited Calumet as the first township in the

western U.P. to adopt a historic preservation ordinance, and Paul's ability to lead by example and numerous volunteer efforts.

## **Agenda**

There were no changes; the agenda was approved.

## **Review of Minutes**

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held July 11, 2001 were distributed and approved without changes.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Frank announced that the KEWE copy machine was broken and apologized for the lack of written reports to share. There were six extra copies of minutes available to anyone present.

► New Staff: Leslie Newkirk was introduced as a new intake trainee from Zion National Park in Utah, working as a museum curator in training under Brian Hoduski and Abby Sue Fisher. Martha Lyon, a law enforcement specialist from Grand Teton National Park, was introduced and will be working as a management assistant to Frank, working in a land management capacity. A vacancy announcement for an oral historian closed on October 18 and a certificate of application will be received within a few weeks. That will be a term position with primary responsibility working with Abby Sue Fisher on oral histories. A chief of interpretation position is currently being classified at the regional office; Frank hopes to recruit for that position in the near future but the budget for that is uncertain. Larry Lankton will be the principal investigator starting January 1 for the KEWE Historic Resources Study. That will be a year-long project of writing with another five months of sorting documents with graduate student assistance.

► Budget: With regard to the Park budget, Frank reported on the conference report. Operating funds plus project money for the Union Building remains. One million dollars for the smelter project fell out. Acquisition money remains (\$800,000) which will be used to acquire the Rowe Building and lands on Quincy Hill. For fiscal year 2002, the budget is uncertain. Frank will take a conservative look at program development and staffing levels. Initial guidance indicates a 5% reduction for 2003, perhaps as a result of the nation's priorities having changed after the events of September 11. Some of the discretionary funds for the community and partnerships have decreased.

► Activities:

1) KEWE has acquired the Pay Office on Quincy Hill, cleaning asbestos and removing artifacts, which were relocated and organized by Abby Sue and Brian. They will be cataloged at the Park Office. \$48K has been allocated to patch walls, clean, create office space on the second floor for Isle Royale, and acquire a new boiler. Frank thanked his staff for their efforts.

2) At the C&H Admin. Bldg, there were 4-5 qualified companies that responded to the contract for exterior restoration. Negotiations will start next week, with the goal being to let the contract by mid-November and exterior work starting next spring.

3) A signed contract has been acquired for the Library Building and a closing date is in process. Abby Sue, Brian and Tom are working on opening it up to the public. Computer lines and phone lines are in process and the goal is to be moved within six months.

4) The roof was removed on the Quincy Machine Shop. Walls will be capped before winter and will help with stabilizing the building for the snow load over the winter.

5) Although money was not received for the Quincy smelter, some coastal zone management money is available from the state. Steve DeLong has put in a project for KEWE and Franklin Township to convert the smelter into an orientation center. Clean-up of the smelter by Isle Royale staff will take place next week. Artifacts will be consolidated into a stable building.

6) Steve and John Rosemurgy are involved in signage issues with the school district.

7) Frank thanked John for his tenacious efforts on the renovation of the study hall at Calumet High School. Although the local newspaper did not report that KEWE was involved, John attended a series of meetings, advising on color choice and a variety of other considerations. Frank cited that project epitomized what the Park is trying to accomplish and collaboration with local partners.

8) The Advisory Commission went to Lansing and the trip went well. The Senator who heads the appropriation committee has requested some additional information. Frank will talk more about that in the following executive session.

9) KEWE, the Historic Preservation Network and the State Historic Preservation Office met on September 29 to provide an informational session on historic preservation and related subjects. John was instrumental in the coordination of that meeting and 68 people attended.

John Rosemurgy reported that on November 3, the Chair of the Historic District Commission will come up from Kalamazoo to address the township commission and give a training session on how to run a historic district, giving architectural review and pragmatic guidelines.

Brian Hoduski reported that the Park turned over \$6,000 of firefighting gear and training aids last week to Calumet Township and Quincy/Franklin Township volunteer fire departments to improve their ability and safety while fighting brush fires adjacent to the park and other purposes. National Fire Plan Funding dollars were used, with hope to have that funded again this fiscal year. Also, a cooperating site end-of-season meeting will occur tomorrow. Brian commented on the success the Quincy Mine Hoist has had with beginning their Museum Management Program. The Park provided some technical and financial support, but Ellen Lapanen and Ed Yarbrough have done a great job in documenting the collections.

### **Questions asked of the Superintendent:**

Kathryn Eckert asked whether guidelines had been drawn up for the cooperating sites. They have not. Brian indicated the Commission was going to be working on that.

Bob Langseth commented on the \$3 million available for non-federal properties available in the legislation. Frank said the Commission should write a letter in support of a request for that.

### **Reports from the Commissioners**

Tom Nemacheck echoed Frank's remarks about the Lansing visit being successful. A state tourism conference occurred last weekend with several people asking Tom about the meeting. The new travel leader for the state is George Zimmerman, who Tom believes is a good addition. The U.P. had a better summer this year than last, with spending staying "flat," as opposed to last year's decrease in spending. Tom is hopeful about the winter tourism outlook.

Abby Sue Fisher asked about the purpose of the Lansing trip. The Commission members and Travel Michigan met with state representatives and Bill Anderson, the division head from the department of History, Arts and Libraries. The intent was to provide information to people who influence state government in terms of the state's role, relationship and responsibilities to the partnership premise of KEWE. The meeting was set up by Kathryn Eckert and Sandra Clark to talk about what the future of the Park is and ways in which the state could participate in the development of the Park. Tom added that Senator Don Koivisto stayed all day and made some very positive strong comments about the Park and his support.

Larry Lankton apologized for missing events since the last quarterly meeting. He is happy to be involved in the Cultural Resource Study and interact with the Park staff. St. Anne's had a very good year; work is continuing to get the building ready to be a museum. About \$500,000 of improvements have been made. He is happy to hear about the Quincy Pay Office and Library and the public use of buildings. Regarding the Quincy smelter projects, he asked where the artifact storage would be. Steve DeLong explained that the first notion was to go with the buildings that are in the worst condition and get the artifacts out of harm's way. Steve will be working with other collection staff to tag and move those items and appreciates any input. The intent is to store the items in the corner of the furnace building. After that, work will continue in closing up windows and doors on the site for safety and preservation. Larry indicated that it would be useful to have an artifact collection policy for St. Anne's and could possibly tag along on the Park's artifact storage.

Abby Sue Fisher explained that the Park is currently overloaded with artifacts and doesn't have the proper storage. With the acquisition of the Rowe warehouse, that will accommodate the growing collection. It is a challenge to integrate the Park's needs and the public's needs with preservation, security and access issues.

A discussion ensued about written policies for collection management. A good rule of thumb is to think about why you are collecting what you are collecting; not only what could be nice in your exhibit but also what the other players have in their collections as well.

Sue Cone arrived and apologized for being late. She thanked Frank and the Park for the financial support given to the Downtown Development Association. Money will be put towards the clock tower and the repaving of Sixth Street next year. There are two sidewalk projects in process that have contributions from the property owners. In addition, the sidewalk in front of the Theatre under the portico and the sidewalk in front of the Italian Hall arch will be replaced. The downtown sidewalks will be finished first because they are starting to cave in onto the underground coal bins and equipment will be a problem. The Council is struggling with the Historic District Ordinance and it is a slow process. Sue thinks the delay may be caused by a number of people seeing it for the first time and who might be unaware of the implications. There was a lot of misinformation on the part of property owners and the Ordinance Committee has work and education ahead.

Larry asked about the preservation of sandstone buildings. Kathryn replied that those issues should be on a wish list for outside funding. A contract should be obtained for estimating purposes. Sue advised that a lot of thought and planning goes into any village project.

Kathryn announced that plans are underway for a statewide Historic Preservation and Smart Growth Conference in Traverse City from April 25-27. A local team is working with the Michigan Historical Preservation Network and land use professionals. The hope is to mesh the efforts of historic preservationists and conservancies and land use people. Richard Mull, the director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be working to preserve Sleeping Bear this spring. One day of the conference will deal with purchase of development rights, there will be tours of the downtown neighborhoods and the waterfront, and finally natural resources – forests and waterways. Kathryn also announced that next week she is travelling to the Council of Michigan Foundations annual meeting in Detroit, presenting a session on historic preservation.

Bob Langseth told of one of Tom's comments to the delegation in Lansing that the Park is a gift to the State of Michigan and thanked Tom for that. Bob gave to Paul (Brian?) a first list for an oral history project on the closure of the mines in 1968 and how that occurred. He is looking for Mr. Suter, manager of the company, to contact him and bring him to Calumet for an interview. As to St. Anne's, Bob reported that attendance is up 25% this year, probably due to the display and the work that was done in front of the church. Bob believes the partnership between the park and the cooperating sites will be even more important in the aftermath of September 11. We need to be asking for contributions and tax credit incentives.

Paul Lehto reported that the drill core shop had some damage from the weather; there's a \$12,000 roof repair project underway. Specs for the smoke stack are almost complete and will probably advertise that during the winter. The powderhouse has a new roof and doors, the roof being a gift from Quincy and Ed Yarbrough. They are looking at 140 acres on the ski trails and \$69,000 to complete that purchase.

[The meeting adjourned for a ten-minute recess].

## **New Business**

Paul Lehto motioned to pay bills for the repair of the truck in an accident from Senator Debbie Stabenow's visit in January and the reimbursement to the Village of Calumet for \$87.82. Motion passed. Motion made to appoint Sue Cone as Acting Treasurer. Motion passed. Paul and Sue want to look at moving some money into an interest-bearing account. Motion passed. An offer was made to a interviewee for the executive director position. That applicant turned the position down and there will be further discussion at the executive session following this meeting.

Bob Langseth moved that the Commission contact Washington legislators and urge their efforts include securing in next year's budget the \$3 million that has been authorized for non-federal properties. Questions about whether the money is carry-over dollars, but it would be matching funds. Amy Wisti indicated that the wording in the original legislation is "up to three million dollars." She recommends using language like "to being to appropriate this funding" pointing out that they are authorized to appropriate up to that amount. Also include some examples and ideas of particular projects to fund. Motion passed with Amy's revised wording.

Amy Wisti thanked Frank for touring Washington staff around the C&H and Quincy sites in August. This will be helpful in the future as they work with Congress on appropriations. She reminded the Commission that although Senator Koivisto is enthusiastic about the Park, he is term-limited and this is his last year. She encouraged the Commissioners to keep in touch with the new senator and even contact the various candidates prior to the election. That is helpful in keeping the candidates informed. Also, Congressman Stupak will be at Calumet High School for Veteran's Day on November 10, 3:00 p.m.

## **Public Questions and Comments**

Ed Yarbrough informed the Commission on the success of the cataloging project. He thanked Abby Sue, Brian and Tom Baker for their help and information during that project. Ellen Lapanen, trained in the cataloging software, is now available to help other cooperating sites. Work was done on the hoist house with Fritz Rushlow, shoring up the structural units on the reinforced concrete. There is an issue with sandstone and particularly the soft borders are crumbling. There are two projects in progress with Steve DeLong and John Rosemurgy: 1) a concept plan for improving interpretation in the 1894 Hoist House, the placement of exhibits and how the mineral display (the copper boulder) will work as visitors leave the building to go underground; 2) they have put together a miners' memorial design using \$15,000 grant money. Originally, Ed thought they would use a company house for that, now it has been refocused on the #2 shafthouse. Also the Range Telecommunications antennae tower on top of the shaft house will be removed in the spring. Ed is looking forward to working with the Park on a development concept for the site. Maintenance is an ongoing challenge; another spot on the adit will have mesh put over it, some roof bolting in the mine, and putting corrugated tin on some of the frame buildings to keep the roofs from falling in. Sigma Phi Epsilon has contributed a great deal of work on the weekends to seal the windows in the miners' houses across U.S. 41. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, both the surface tours and the gift shop will be open five days a week. The Isle Royale Natural History Association will be moving merchandise into the gift shop which will particularly enhance the Hoist's book offerings and help the winter slump in

revenue. Ed was asked to recap the Hoist's hours of operation. The Hoist is open from the end of April until the end of October largely twelve hours a day. This year the attendance was up about 30% over any previous year. Expenses were also up due to longer hours, but only about half that much. Visitation was up 27% with merchandise up 35%.

Tom commended Ed's efforts in expanding the hours to accommodate visitors. Larry asked how the fraternity got involved. Ed replied they had worked with the Hoist last year on the brush project. Last year the fraternity indicated they were not fully utilized in previous projects and this year they had more people to help the Hoist.

Paul asked that meeting dates be set for the 2002 Commission meetings. The dates in 2001 were: January 23, April 24, July 11 and October 23.

Dates for the 2002 Commission meetings were set as follows:

Tuesday, January 8  
Tuesday, April 9  
Wednesday, July 24  
Tuesday, October 8

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.